

The Marble Hill Press.

J. S. Hill, Business Manager.
MARBLE HILL, MISSOURI

There must be larger birds. The women want them for their bonnets.

The clergyman who married a couple in a home den took care to remain outside during the ceremony. He hadn't the blood of the late Mr. Daniel in his veins, and he had no desire to go to judgment.

A couple lately sought fame by being married in a cage with two lions at a "zoo." The same day a free woman married a convict in a prison cell. A giggling couple mounted a stove which became their altar at the ceremony. When one reads of these, and also of mock marriages between their children at charity fairs, one better comprehends the growing levity with which solemn ceremonies are treated.

The bulk of England's great ocean tonnage is made up of what is known as "tramp steamers"—stanch, slow freight carriers, economical in maintenance, which seek cargoes wherever they are to be found. There may be much significance in the fact that the first American steamer of this character was under construction with the Bath Iron works of Bath, Me. This vessel is for a New York house. It is to be completed next May, and will at once compete with the foreign "tramp" steamers.

It would seem that one of the chief causes of schools and colleges would be that students should learn to speak correctly. The mental drill that accompanies the study of language is invaluable. Of course, it is easy to say that there are many things in life more important than correct speaking. This is true, but as a nation we are old enough to have acquired not merely the essentials, but some of the graces as well. In other words, it is time we were adding to our common schooling evidences of culture. And one of the most indispensable of these is correct speech.

The Queen Regent of Spain has pardoned the Americans who were taken from the schooner *Competitor* in April, 1896, as she was engaged Cuban coast. These men, including the captain, mate and steward of the schooner and a newspaper correspondent, were tried by court martial soon after their capture and sentenced to death. The United States government intervened to secure for them a trial by the civil courts. In accordance with our treaties with Spain. The cases were the subject of protracted diplomatic correspondence and of several debates in congress. The course of Spain, in setting the men free, removes one of the most serious causes of irritation between the two countries.

Last year the girls in a school in Brookline, Mass., took lessons in bread and cake making, while the boys learned carpentry and carving. This year the girls are making wooden tables and chairs, but the boys, one day each week, are taught to make coffee, to boil cereals, to broil steaks, to fry and scramble eggs, and to make omelets. One boy, while admitting that the failures were many, remarked that cooking was much nicer than sawing boards or hammering nails. "Cos you can walk around and talk and taste all the things." Whatever that cooking class may do for the boys, the lessons in carpentry will do much for the girls if they teach them to hammer in a nail without pounding a finger nail or splitting the board, and to set a screw and saw a board without becoming nervous.

A United States report on Austria as a grain-producing country says: From statistics it is evident that a marked change has occurred during the last few years as regards the grain situation in Austria-Hungary. Not only in the case of wheat, but also in that of the various other cereals, the tendency has been toward a larger home consumption of the national product and a consequent reduction of the surplus available for shipment to other lands. To such an extent have the exports declined and the imports increased that most of the cereals are now brought into the country in larger quantities than they are exported. Barley is the only grain of which any considerable amount continues to be shipped abroad. In respect to other cereals, the status of the Monarchy is apparently that of an importing country. While it is hardly to be expected that these changed conditions will to any considerable extent create an enlarged demand for American cereals, the facts set forth are certainly of interest as indicating the lessened importance of Austria-Hungary among the countries with which the United States is obliged to compete in the grain markets of the world.

An exasperating instance of the law's quibbles appeared in the United States circuit court the other day, when a father suing a railroad company for killing his boy was defeated on the ground that his child was killed instantly. That is to say, it was held that only the injured himself has the right to recover damages, and that the boy, dying instantly, could not be presumed to have transmitted his rights to his heirs, as he could have done if he had lived a few minutes. This ruling is not legally objectionable. For all that, it is a disgusting quibble.

Two items in the budget of the bank at Monte Carlo, for the year ending Oct. 31: "Payments to ruined gamblers. One hundred thousand francs; for the prevention of suicides, one hundred thousand francs." Here is a sermon, "write large," on the question, Does gambling pay?

Asparagus causes asthma, according to Dr. Deschamps, of Paris, and must be added to the list that contains roses, mink, tea, ipocuanha, cats, fried fish, cats, malt and rice dust, feathers and wool.

The New York Rhineland who has scandalized the "400" for the second time by marrying his housemaid first wife having been a servant in the family—appreciates the value of good housekeeping and is not making much of a sacrifice in preferring that blessing to the allurements of fashionable society.

Mark Twain, in saying that he is still deeply in debt, reminds us of the duty of "consolation" through the remark that the world is still more deeply in debt to him.

FORMING THE LINES.

DEMOCRATIC FORCES READY FOR BATTLE.

And They Are Eager for the Fight—The slogan of 16 to 1 will be heard in every Congressional District in the United States.

The Democratic managers intend to inaugurate the congressional campaign at an early day, says Senator Jones, national commander of the allied forces of Democracy, while the Republicans are quarreling and fighting among themselves over Cuba, the money question and civil service reform, the Democrats are ready to make a determined effort to capture the next house. The reports received from all parts of the country are of the most encouraging character.

According to these reports, the Democrats are practically certain to gain eight seats in Illinois, seven in Indiana, five in Iowa, four in Kentucky, five in Maryland, seven in Michigan, four in Minnesota, twelve in New York, six in Ohio, five in Pennsylvania and two in West Virginia.

This makes a total gain of sixty-three and it is not expected that the Republicans will gain more than four seats, making the next Democratic gain sixty. According to these figures, the next house would stand: Republicans, 183; opposition, 71. It is not doubted that the Populists and the silver Republicans will act with the Democrats in the next congress. In organizing the house the Democrats would be allowed to name the three principal officers and the chairman of all the important committees, while one of the house officers and a number of the most important chairmanships would be given to the Populists and Silver Republicans.

"So far as the state of Kentucky is concerned," says Representative David Highbaugh Smith of Hodgenville, Laure county, "the Republicans have had their day in court down there and have shown themselves to be unworthy of public confidence. The administration of Governor Bradley is so disastrous a failure as to amount almost to a disgrace. The men who have been sent to Washington by the Kentucky Republicans during their last year have not made a favorable impression on the country. The old commonwealth is back again in the Democratic column, and there it is likely to stay. At the next election for members of congress the Democrats will carry every district except the eleventh and the delegation in the next house will consist of ten Democrats and two Republicans. Silver will be the battle cry all along the line. The platform will be the same in every district. It will be such that there will be no need for fusion. The candidates in various districts will be distributed among the Democrats, Populists and Silver Republicans, according to the vote polled in 1896.

Wall Street Reformers.
Democrats in the house of representatives have placed themselves on record as opposed to the retirement of the greenbacks.

They will oppose, undoubtedly, all attempts to change the legal interpretation of the word "coin" so that it will mean gold and silver. They will also oppose the issuing of gold bonds. The absurdity of attempting to pay a debt by increasing the obligation is an invention of the Republican financiers, and will be repudiated by the conscientious and conservative Republicans.

Some of the Republican organs are "pointing with pride" to the increase of wages by Jones & Laughlin and some of the other iron and steel companies, the increase affecting about 5,000 workers. But they do not quote as an offset against this the big cut in wages of cotton operatives, a cut of 10 per cent being necessary. In wages of 38,000 New England operatives. This makes quite a difference in the "prosperity" showing.

What the Democrats Believe.
Those who are inclined to the opinion that the Chicago platform is too radical for a Democratic platform should read the following, taken from an address issued by the "Young Democracy" at a convention held in Philadelphia fifty years ago, a copy of which is in the possession of Col. S. F. Norton of the Chicago Sentinel. As good words as any, it may be compared with some others, it may be considerably further and still not reach the demands of the democratic party fifty years ago, which were as follows:

"We demand that one man shall not be allowed to hold unlimited thousands of acres of the common inheritance, while hundreds and thousands of the race are homeless and destitute.

"We maintain that every man is entitled to as much of the earth's surface as may be necessary to supply the wants of his family.

"The first great natural right of every human being—the most essential, the most vitally important of all with which man is endowd, is the right to as much of the food and other necessities of life as will make existence not only endurable but a pleasure and a blessing.

"This right is as old as creation—it is covered with man's wants, and is as inalienable as life itself.

"If a man has a right to live, he has a right to a habitation in which to live, and a right to all the necessary

AGITATE--EDUCATE.

THE BATTLE CRY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Its Mission to Tear Away the Mask of Illusion—The Cry of Anarchy Shall Not Eatop the Grand Work That is Now Going On.

Agitation, as the word is used in politics, is discussion. It is investigation. There never, so far as I can recall, has been an instance in history where honest men have said, "Do not investigate." Every thief and every murderer is an opponent of investigation. King George tried to prevent people printing criticisms of his acts. To-day Russia the plainest question of human liberty cannot be discussed in the public papers. In Germany the editors are being constantly thrown into prison merely because they reason on public questions. The enemies of sound money try to shut the discussion of the money question by referring to it as agitation. The people may chew the old rag of protection till they become poor as Lazarus, and these wise financiers do not call it agitation. To the pensmen of a special privilege, public discussion becomes dangerous to the special privilege. It is possible, by continually calling evil good to secure in the minds of many the attributes of good for evil; and thus the highest reasoning may sometimes lose a just prestige by being sneeringly called "agitation."

For 1897 \$18,500,000
For 1898 20,000,000
For 1899 21,500,000

Total deficits for 3 years, \$65,100,000
How much would these deficits have been if the government had not been able to sell three or four job lots of railroads? In the treasury report the receipts from railroad sales are claimed under the head of "miscellaneous receipts," with sales of public lands, conscience fund collections and similar items. For the last year the "miscellaneous receipts" amounted to less than \$1,000,000. Including 1897 the "miscellaneous receipts" are reported and estimated as follows:

For 1897 \$ 913,120
For 1898 2,400,000
For 1899 25,000,000

Total "miscellaneous receipts" (mostly from railroad sales) \$28,313,120
To ascertain how much the Dingley deficit would have been in three years but for the windfall from sales of the Pacific railroads add the amount of the deficits to the amount of the railroad sales, as follows:
Deficits from 1897 to 1899, inclusive \$65,100,000
"Miscellaneous receipts" (mostly railroad sales) 49,913,120

But for receipts from railroad sales deficits would have been \$115,183,120
This would have been the enormous deficit confronting the treasury at the close of 1899 but for the receipts from railroad sales.

Too Easy on Bank Wreckers.
The President is showing a mistaken clemency to bank wreckers. It is said that he has pardoned on an average one of these guilty every three weeks since his inauguration. But if there is one class of scoundrels which deserves no such mercy it is these bank wreckers. They are the most brazen and the most wicked of the nation. Can it be wondered that those enjoying this special privilege cry out against agitation? Is it to be wondered at that they dread investigation? Their hope is, of course, to escape the law. Reason is their foe. Reason aroused, like a mighty lion, would burst through clouds of abuse and into the field of their silly sophistries, and tear from the eyes of the weak the wool of deception; and then the goddess of special privilege, though entrenched behind a host of stolen millions, would die among her worshippers. In this lies the cause of this persistent ranting about anarchy, idiots, lunatics and wild-eyed fanatics. Truth was never in the history of the world defended by such agencies and weapons as are now being used by the money power to defend their stolen millions.

One Way to Wipe Out Deficit.
We observe that quite a number of moral republican editors are pointing with pride to the gratifying increase in the internal revenue receipts. If an impetus can be given to the general drunkenness of the country the grand old republican party will be rescued from the hole in the treasury and the ship of state will avoid the rocks.

As the Republicans Reason.
Wonderful is the logic of Republicanism. According to this system the Wilson bill brought about a deficit of \$70,000,000 fourteen months before it was passed, and now it has brought about a deficit of \$16,000,000 five months after it has been repealed.

Better Teach Him to Forget.
"We must teach the farmer to forget," declares one of the officials of the agricultural department. He will be performing a greater service to the present administration if he will but impart to the farmer the art of forgetting.

Where McKinley Comes Out Strong.
McKinley can use strong language and make powerful recommendations on occasion. Read his scathing remarks against the yellow fever.

TIMELY ADVICE.
Do you belong to a silver club? If not, why not? The battle for YOUR PROSPERITY can never be won without your aid.

Are there any gold bugs in YOUR vicinity? Find out who they are and all about them. As such they have no business to meddle in Democratic politics. They belong in the Republican party.

If you see an article in this paper that contains any points that would in your opinion remove doubt from the mind of a Republican neighbor please send him a marked copy. The great majority of Republicans are honest and only need to read the truth honestly told.

If every Democrat puts his shoulder to the wheel 1898 will be a great year for the people.

In the congressional campaigns every Democratic candidate for congress must stand on a platform that indorses the Chicago platform in every particular, as well as the financial issue.

It is the duty of every Democrat to make a personal neighbor-to-neighbor campaign in behalf of the Democratic platform. Work among Republicans who are appointed at the action of the administration in slumping to the gold standard. Honest Republicans will be glad to listen to you.

Do not allow a goldbug into any Democratic club with which you are connected. Point to the fact that a man cannot be a Democrat and an advocate of the British gold standard at one and the same time.

The Regular League of Democratic Clubs, national headquarters, 115 Walnut, St. Louis, Mo., is carrying on the work of organization in every county in Missouri. Write to the secretary, Leo Meriwether, and he will tell you how to organize a club.

THE PLAY BEHIND THE SCENES.

The Work That Is Done and the Money That Is Spent.

We all date our brief examination of the history of a play from the moment the manager of the theater, or, perhaps, the actor-manager, accepts the work and decides to "put it on."

Though, indeed, most plays, even at that early stage, have already a long and checked past, says Leslie's Weekly. The stage manager takes the typewritten, oilcloth covered manuscript, in which form the play at this time has its material existence, and proceeds to cut, slash, and generally remodel it, by means of a robust blue pencil. If the author is a man (or woman, we ought to say nowadays) of experience, he diplomatically assists at this operation, which means his practical acquiescence in all of the stage manager's somewhat dogmatic views. If he does not acquiesce, the stage manager goes on cutting and slashing just the same, while the author gnashes his teeth in impotent rage. Then the play is cast—that is to say, its parts are distributed to the members of the stock company of the theater, including the chorus and the "star." If such organization is not already in existence, the people have to be found and specially engaged, under contracts as easily breakable (by the manager) as pie crust. Their pay does not begin until the actual production of the piece, and during the weeks, perhaps months, of rehearsal. Meanwhile, the stage manager has prepared a "scene plot," whereat to start the scene painters, stage carpenters, electricians and gasmen at their respective jobs. A list of "properties" is drawn up, including furniture and accessories used in each act, and every separate article called for, from an imitation elephant to a forged will. If the play is a costume piece (requiring foreign or fancy dress, or clothes of another period than today), these have to be ordered, fitted and made up for the principals of the cast. The wig-maker receives extensive and divers orders. The leader of the orchestra has troubles of his own with the incidental music. Finally a call is posted and the company assembles for the first rehearsal. This may be in the theater where the play is to be presented, or in any other house that happens to be unoccupied at the moment. It is not matter—all stages are alike, behind the curtain. They are all bleak, dark, draughty and dusty, and always smell of gas. Time, 10 a. m. The stage manager, sitting on a throne at a little table at the front and center of the stage, with the manuscript before him and a movable lunch-buffet at his side, dominates the scene. The cavernous gloom of the empty theater stretches beyond. A series of musical notes, heard in the distance, heralds the entrance of the first of the play's spoken for the first time officially. It is a reading rehearsal, the actors having their parts—little typewritten brochures—with them, and reading in their hands. After a few days they are required to be "dead-letter-perfect" with their lines, so that attention can be concentrated upon the entrances, exits, groupings and general "business" of the action. All these are mapped out in large sheets of paper resembling meteorological charts. The stage manager's annotations on the "prompt copy" of the play almost equal in volume the words written by the author. It has been said, and very truly, that plays are not written, but rewritten. Weeks pass; rehearsals go on strenuously, and the thousand and one suggestions and inspirations arising from the daily contact of many minds crystallize into a consistent whole, which is the "play" as the public will see it on the first night of its performance. The preparation of it, as here outlined, has cost the manager "prompt copy" of the play almost equal in volume the words written by the author. It has been said, and very truly, that plays are not written, but rewritten. 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